

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 277

By Hazlewood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Holly Warlick on being named the 2017 Woman of Distinction.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Holly Warlick, who was selected as the American Lung Association of Tennessee's 2017 Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious honor is given to women who have distinguished themselves and made a difference in the lives of people every day through their professional accomplishments, volunteer service, and philanthropic activities; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Ms. Warlick received her Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), in 1981 and her master's degree in athletic administration from Virginia Tech in 1983; and

WHEREAS, as a student at UTK, Holly Warlick played point guard on the women's basketball team, the Lady Volunteers, from 1976-1980. During her estimable tenure, the Lady Vols enjoyed a record of 118-23, and Ms. Warlick herself was a three-time All-American, who helped lead the team to its first Final Four appearance. She was known as the "best player in the South" and was the first person in the history of UT athletics to have her jersey, number twenty-two, retired at the end of her career; and

WHEREAS, Holly Warlick was also named to the 1980 United States Olympic Team, helping the team win the 1979 FIBA World Championship and the gold in the 1980 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament; and

WHEREAS, after college, Ms. Warlick played in the Women's Professional Basketball League (WPBL) as a member of the Nebraska Wranglers in 1981; she led the team to the championship that year and was named a WPBL All-Star; and

WHEREAS, after a magnificent career as a basketball player, Ms. Warlick set her sights on becoming a basketball coach. She first served as an assistant coach at Virginia Tech from 1981-1983 and at the University of Nebraska from 1983-1985; and

WHEREAS, during the 1985-1986 season, Holly Warlick returned home to the University of Tennessee, serving as assistant coach from 1985 to 2005 and as associate head coach from 2005 to April 2012. During those years, Holly Warlick helped former head coach Pat Summitt guide the Lady Vols to eight National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) National Championships; and

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2012, Holly Warlick was chosen as the successor to the legendary Pat Summitt and took up the mantle of head coach for the Lady Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, with Holly Warlick as their head coach, the Lady Vols have enjoyed a record of 103-34, won the 2013 and 2015 Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular season championships, won the 2014 SEC Tournament championship, maintained a 100 percent graduation rate for players who have completed their collegiate careers at Tennessee, and had six players selected in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Holly Warlick was the 2013 Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year, the 2013 SEC Coach of the Year, the 2013 Tennessee Sports Writer Association Coach of the Year, and the Volscars Women's Team Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, with such a noteworthy career, Holly Warlick has also been inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the University of Tennessee Lady Vol Hall of Fame, and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, an avid supporter of her community, Ms. Warlick co-founded the Champions for a Cause organization in 2007. Created alongside former UT player and

assistant coach and current Louisiana State University head coach, Nikki Fargas, Champions for a Cause is a long-haul motorcycle ride dedicated to raising funds and awareness for a cure for breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Champions for a Cause has raised and donated more than \$150,000, which has been given to such noteworthy causes as the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund, the UT Breast Health Outreach Program, the Kay Yow Cancer Foundation, and the Brady James Foundation; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, Holly Warlick takes her place among many fine citizens who have earned Tennessee the nickname of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as Holly Warlick who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Holly Warlick on being named the 2017 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success in every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.